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A
LETTER,

ADDRESSED TO THE
BENEFIT SOCIETIES
IN GREAT BRITAIN:

AND A
CANDID APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC.

PROPOSING AN
INFALLIBLE REMEDY

AGAINST THE
ALARMING HIGH PRICE OF BREAD,
&c. &c. &c.

TO DEFEAT THE SORDID ARTS OF MONOPOLY,
AND RENDER THE BLESSING PERMANENT.

A PLAN

WHICH, IF PATRONIZED, WILL SUPERSEDE THE TEMPTATION,
AND POINT OUT THE

ULTIMATE DANGER OF COMBINATION

AMONGST THE NUMEROUS CLASSES OF JOURNEYMEN IN THIS
GREAT COMMERCIAL COUNTRY!

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ADVERTISEMENT.

NO affectation of novelty, or desire of being officious ; no contemptible vanity ; or attempt at crude innovation, gave rise to the following LETTER, but the mere impulse, it is hoped, of good-will to all men. That, with respect to the alarming and increasing expence of living, we are in a great crisis, no reasonable doubt can be entertained. The price of labour and the price of provision have not kept in an equal ratio ; every day they become more distant ; and, unless some radical mode is adopted, and quickly, consequences may ensue of a nature highly dangerous to the British Empire. It is the bounden duty of every good Citizen to come forward and exert himself in danger, whether in act, or in deed ; and, if he conducts himself temperately, judiciously, and from the pure motive of regard for mankind, it is presumed, that he is fairly entitled to candour and protection.

Unfortunately,

Unfortunately, we live in an age when every thing that is published seems to provoke censure, if it is in the least a deviation from the good old track ; it is hunted as fair prey, denounced as something dangerous, or innovating, and condemned by bell, book, and candle ; not because it is false or dangerous, but because it is new.

But this consideration must not depress, but stimulate, activity ; men are not to be deterred by fallacy, in whatever shape it may come ; they must not be frightened, unless by vice or immorality, or when the laws are violated ; they should persevere firmly, while the public good is the basis of action ; and push fairly for the honest discharge of their duty, and the rational commendation of mankind.

A PLAN

A PLAN
FOR REDUCING THE
PRICE OF BREAD, &c.

THE great utility, long established veneration, and very extensive benefits resulting to Great Britain from the institution of Friendly Societies, are truths too valuable to need either comment or argument. Formed in the bosom of social order, fostered and matured by the protecting wing of Government, their effects expand widely in mercies to indigence and want; and, it is to be hoped, that they will long flourish in this happy Island with a reputation increasing; that they will never depart from their simplicity and wisdom, but exhibit to mankind permanence and consistency, lasting honour and advantage, to themselves, and add to the glory of national civilization.

As these Societies are at once numerous and respectable, and composed generally of working people, selected from those innumerable masses of society which form the great bulk of mankind in every country, and on whose labour-worn shoulders the weight of public misfortune principally rests; it is with much hope, and much confidence, that we

submit our proposal to them ; relying not only on a candid perusal, but a spirited adoption of a **PLAN** which comes home to every man's business and bosom ; which will most certainly defeat the machinations of avarice, check the sordid monopolizer, and spread a sudden joy over the pale visage of want and despondency.

It is futile to enquire the cause of the alarming high price of every necessary of life ; one says this is the cause, another says that is the cause ; some accuse monopoly, some taxation ; some accuse the elements ; the summers are always too hot, or too cold ; if the sun shines, the farmer declares the wheat is all burnt up ; if it rains, that it is all washed away. Last year, a *pretended* scarcity made it dear ; and, in the present, when the never failing and merciful bounty of Providence has poured its abundance for the suffering poor, the quartern loaf is sold for *seventeen-pence three farthings* !—Thus, we are every way in a predicament ; there is no escape from accumulating expence :—if a real or pretended scarcity prevails one year, and a plentiful harvest the next, the consequence to the people is much the same.

The laborious poor, who suffer so cruelly in the time of scarcity, are not consoled in the time of plenty ; the fact is, that the affluent in this country will keep the grain hoarded up in their stores until they can command what price they please to demand.

To remedy this, or, at least, to lessen the evil, a number of expedients have been resorted to ; hot rolls in a morning, tarts and pies at dinner, have been done away, and other methods have been adopted, but these puny efforts have been too inefficient and trivial for the magnitude of the complaint.

plaint. The most praiseworthy attention has been afforded by the Legislature to this most important subject, and the Acts passed lately for the purpose of encouraging the importation of foreign wheat reflect credit on the spirit and wisdom of those Gentlemen who came forward on the occasion. But, however pious this intention of opening the foreign ports for the relief of the poor, the effect has not been in the least productive of good, or at all commensurate to the means employed. Mr. PITT, in delivering his sentiments upon this subject, “ declared, that the interference of the Legislature “ would open the ports of the world for our benefit, and that the price of bread would certainly “ be reduced.”

But it does not seem that the talents or prophetic sagacity of Mr. PITT can command any consequence in futuro ; his prediction has totally failed ; the ports of the world have been opened to us, foreign wheat has arrived with every tide, the river Thames has been crowded with countless abundance, but, melancholy to relate, bread not only continues shamefully dear, but the public terror is heightened by the fear of its being still dearer.

It is very painful to relate the failure of every plan that has been adopted by individual or collective wisdom ; by power or patriotism, for the benefit of the people ; but, certain it is, they have failed in every instance. The narrow limits of this publication does not permit us to enumerate all the Plans that have been suggested as a remedy, and, indeed, it would answer no other end than add more shade to a subject sufficiently sombrous already.

It is a fact fully known, so far as relates to foreign wheat, that, in the ports of the Baltic, the first purchase of the wheat is comparatively trifling compared

pared to the full price it produces in Mark-lane : the difference, though fluctuating, is amazing. Whence then can this difference arise from ? the tonnage, freight, port duties, and sea-expences are scarcely to be mentioned, when we know the high interest for money produced to the speculator who imports grain. The writer of these remarks, saw in the river Thames very lately a single ship, which contained 11,0000 quarters of wheat ! this, prodigious quantity, at the shocking high price which prevails at present, must produce a nett profit of so many thousand pounds, that we might suppose avarice itself might be glutted fairly, without resorting to, and profiting by, the temporary calamity of the moment.

Great and ample profit would have accrued to the importer if it had been sold at a price somewhat reduced. But, no ; the nature of avarice is to be insatiable ; however trifling the original purchase is, every fordid attempt is resorted to, to swell the profits beyond bounds.

What then are the hopes of the industrious poor ? they are frightened at a *pretended* scarcity one year ; in a harvest uncommonly bountiful they pay almost *one shilling and five-pence* for a quartern loaf ; the Legislature wisely and humanely step in, open the ports of the world for their relief, but the demon of Avarice stands in the way, every avenue is barred ; a number of causes, seemingly opposite, produce the same melancholy effect. How long it will stand as it does at present no man can say ; but the tragical effects which have begun, seem to call aloud for some efficient application, which may not only through Providence remove, but prevent the repetition of so alarming an evil.

From

From the above cursory dissertation, we believe the following facts will be fully admitted :

I. That every necessary of life throughout Great Britain is in the hands of the affluent, and that they deal it out at whatever exorbitant price they please to demand.

II. That the high prices of every article of subsistence are too likely to keep advancing, and out of the reach of the poorer classes of society.

III. That the most imperious necessity exists for some radical remedy to be immediately applied, if possible, commensurate to the growing evil.

The first of the above facts is so notorious, that it cannot escape the most indifferent observation. None but the wealthy can hoard such quantities of grain as is seen in every corner of the kingdom; speculate immense sums in importing it, and keeping it back unless the price is agreeable to their wishes. It may be necessary here too to observe, that it is equally notorious, that not wheat and flour only, but every other necessary of life is hoarded, and kept back from the same sordid motives; as butter, cheese, coals, in particular, &c. the prices of which, as well as bread, are unhappily become so stationary, as to preclude all reasonable hope of seeing any material reduction in price.

In mentioning the affluent, no prejudice is meant towards them; we only mean the sordid and unprincipled part of them; no clamour is meant to be excited; the times are very doubtful, and every man ought to speak and write with caution and temper; at the same time, if the malady is not probed and investigated fully, no curative applications can be properly attempted. To become
right,

right, we must know what is wrong. The bread of the land is the property of the rich ; and, we much fear, that that portion of the wealthy in whose hands the grain is lodged, do not love their neighbours, so well as they do themselves.

That the prices of the immediate necessities of life are too likely to keep advancing, there is too much reason to fear ; we are approaching a long winter, which is commonly the dearest time ; and the continual hints from the retailers, of new advances in price, are not very consoling. The most urgent necessity then exists for resorting to some remedy. The tumults at this moment rankling in the bosom of the nation, are an evil of the greatest calamity to a trading country. The combinations amongst the numerous classes of journeymen, particularly in manufactories, to raise the price of their labour, is another evil of the greatest moment.— But in these awful instances, what is the basis of complaint ? Is it not want ?—We dare not say much on this point ; we wish to leave it, and proceed to the remedy. But it is necessary to state the following fact. We presume that one of these two circumstances must shortly take place :—either that the price of labour must be advanced ; or, the price of bread, and of other necessities, must be lessened.

With respect to journeymen, their wages, in many cases, are the same now as they were twenty years since ; in the interval, the expence of living is more than double what it was at that period. If a man, with a wife and four or five children, could barely live upon a guinea a week twenty years ago, it is surely well worth the enquiry how such a family can subsist now ? what is the consequence ? complaint
and

and combination. It is not left to these people to make their own terms by the collective support of each other; this is punishable; and they are punished by imprisonment. The Legislative reason for this is, that the raising their wages will necessarily raise the price of our exports, and, consequently, lessen our influence in foreign markets.

But surely the question is rational, what are they to do? it is no time to tell a hungry man that his clamouring for more wages will influence the foreign markets! Hunger is very imperious, and children very troublesome on such occasions.

If then, of the two consequences, the raising the price of labour be impolitic and dangerous, the endeavour must be to lessen, if possible, the price of the necessaries of life. If men labour, they must be fed; and this brings us immediately to our PLAN.

It has already been mentioned, that monopoly, by its large capital, has been able to import large quantities of grain into England, at a trifling cost; and that the same spirit of monopoly, taking advantage of the existing circumstances, has sold it out at as high a rate as possible. We, therefore, propose to imitate monopoly as far as it is justifiable.—What one rich man can do, no poor man can perhaps; but, in the way of purchase, a hundred, or five hundred poor men, may, and certainly can, carry their collective money to as good a market as the rich man; and by a wise, steady, and frugal management, at once become their own merchants, and defeat the monopolist.

It is to the Friendly Benefit Societies that this proposal is particularly addressed; their numbers, respectability, and situation in the rank of society, plead powerfully for support against the evil complained of; their example, in adopting the method
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of buying their own corn, would act as a stimulus to other bodies of people, as well in wheat as in other necessaries of life.

Their number, and peaceable behaviour renders them highly respectable; and the rank which they fill in society, makes a plan of this sort, or a similar one, absolutely necessary. The number of wives, and the still greater number of children, calls loudly for relief of some kind. But a difficulty may be started, how is this to be done?—We answer—as others do it.

The methods of carrying the proposal into effect are many. A ship must be employed by trusty and skilful persons, to go to those foreign ports where the merchants send; the money must be laid out with judgment, the grain brought home, lodged in warehouses, ground, and distributed to the Members as it is wanted.

The ship might, or might not, be the property of the Societies; there are plenty of men of character in the sea-service, who would gladly undertake the commission, and import the grain at the fair price; which price, indeed, might at all times be ascertained many ways as a check.

For storing it, no difficulty could arise, for it is the easiest part of the plan.

For grinding and baking—One mill is capable of working for the supply of many thousands, they are to be had on fair terms, by lease or purchase, all over the kingdom. Distribution might be performed by five or six bakers, in proper divisions of the metropolis. But in town, and country, common experience would soon arrange this according to circumstances.

For the purpose of maturing, and managing some plan of this or some other kind, two, four,
or

or any number occasion required, might be deputed by a certain number; a hundred of the societies, for instance, or more, to act for the rest; and what they do to be subject to the revision of the societies at large, at their quarterly meetings; or, if necessity required, at extra meetings held for that purpose, at their club-houses.

We will propose, as a mere outline, that five hundred societies concur in this plan; each society to depute one or two members, which might be formed into committees of one or two hundred each. These five committees to meet periodically for general purposes, and to depute four out of each committee, of the most approved persons for character and intelligence, to act for the whole body of the societies concerned in the plan.

There are many friendly societies, particularly Shadwell and Limehouse way, abounding with members well versed in all the circumstances of such a trifling voyage as to the Baltic, as Dantzic, Revel, and many places where wheat is to be purchased at a low rate, from whose judgment and experience, or active zeal in such a momentous and good cause, every good is to be expected.

It will be seen at once, by the candid reader, that this proposition is a mere skeleton, or hint, originating, it is presumed, in the honest wish and endeavour to do good: convinced, as we are, from a thousand most impressive circumstances, that something must be done immediately towards a remedy against an evil of the most tremendous aspect. From the coolest reflection; and turning our thoughts every way, we are absolutely convinced, that the Benefit Societies might buy their own corn; that they might profit by the example

of

of monopoly just as far as the point of Mark-lane; to this point the wheat arrives cheap, it is *here* that the iniquity begins, and it is here that the line should be drawn.

The wheat imported by order of the Societies, instead of being consigned to the hands of monopolists, would be carefully lodged in the hands of those whose most pious and immediate care it would be—not to raise vast sums from the sharp necessities of toil and want, but to keep it like careful stewards, at a moderate price, to the permanent comfort of themselves, their wives, and growing offspring.

Nor need much fear, or any, be entertained, that the first cost would remain moderate; for, in those countries where wheat is purchased, the political dispensations to the community are essentially different to what they are in some countries; many of the Governments abroad, although despotic, are so moderate in their imposts, and exactions, that the necessities of life are easily attainable by all. And again, the same simple, and frugal mode of living of all the classes of the peasantry in other countries is another security against the fear of any material rise in the price of wheat taking place.

On the contrary, in England, the farmer is no longer the plain, simple, frugal character he used to be in this country; ostentation, pride, and luxury, have usurped the places of hospitality, and of those moderate virtues, on which depends so much real good to the individual, and to the community. This is one of the causes of the rise of the markets; but is it necessary to observe, that there are many, and more important causes to be assigned, which from motives of delicacy we are precluded from remarking. It was said in the outset;

set; that our business was not with the cause, but with the remedy. This remedy we have proposed; and if it is not adopted, we presume to hope at least that it will not be rejected without due consideration, or without stimulating some abler pen to come forward at the present crisis.

But to return—when the committees were formed, and from them, the lesser acting committee deputed; the first object would be the establishing such a fund as would be adequate to the different purposes intended. Taking the number of societies intending the adoption of our plan, at five hundred, each society might advance twenty pounds to the acting committee; this moderate advance, would amount to ten thousand pounds, a sum, we presume, quite adequate to the intention of importing, storing, grinding, baking, and distributing the bread to the members. This sum, of ten thousand pounds, would be a fluctuating capital; and should not be too much impaired; but replaced from time to time, as it flowed in from the daily ready money; and when the fluctuating medium was found, the exact magnitude, or quantum of money would be soon ascertained, that would be necessary to preserve all the agencies, and give energy to the undertaking. What the loaf should be sold for to the members, must be regulated by the original cost, and by the different charges when imported. This, would be fluctuating, because the markets are no where stationary in value; but it is a truth, most strong and clear, that a quartern loaf produced by this plan, or four pounds, five ounces, and a half of bread, would come to the members at a very reduced price. The exact difference between the present price, sixteen pence three farthings the quartern loaf, and the

the eventual price of the same loaf according to the plan proposed it is impossible to state; but, from some private experiments, which have been made, the difference would be most decidedly of a very flattering nature.

If it should be objected, that it is a novel plan, we reply in the first place, that novelty never was, or ever can be a fair, or rational ground of objection, unless other circumstances are attached that may render a plan objectionable. In the second place, we believe we are correct in stating, that it is not a novelty, but that it has been adopted in one of the northern counties, with the most beneficial effect. Indeed, why it has not been adopted generally is amazing, when we but for a moment contemplate the alarming necessity, and the great and flattering encouragement held out by this plan, to all ranks of people to awake from their sleep or torpid apathy, in which the whole nation seem to be at present plunged. As it was not necessary to observe any studied method in sending our proposition into the world, we hope, that the business intended, will be sufficiently seen in the rough draught, or outline; enough has been said to give a competent idea of the intention, the further adjustment, and proportion of the specific divisions, would easily be found if the matter is adopted; experience would soon give it form, zeal give it energy, honor and industry give it effect and permanency. Persons but moderately versed in the markets of this country are well aware of the great difference of price between the common wholesales and retails, in most articles, particularly in the vegetable line, fruit, and many other necessaries. The difference of price singly, or by the score, dozen, hundred, maund, sieve, &c. will furnish a leading

leading idea towards proving the great utility of our plan; magnitude, something that embraces a wide circle, must be found to counteract the pernicious tendency of the present crisis! the existing evil is great, and we are told this evil will be still greater; the remedy must be in proportion.

We will now just start an idea which is exactly accordant with our Plan. Some years back that wholesome and beneficial root, the potatoe, was sold at the moderate rate of three pounds for a penny; now, the same quantity and quality require the expending four-pence, or four-pence halfpenny. This circumstance is mentioned rather minutely, because the bulk of the people, from convenience or penury, always buy small quantities. Now, suppose a piece of ground was purchased, held by lease, copy or freehold, or some small inclosure, held moderately by the favour of that individual benevolence which so eminently adorns this country, and planted by some careful person as gardener, and Member perhaps, and the produce sold out to the Societies, as in the plan respecting wheat, will any reasonable man doubt an instant of the great benefit that would indubitably result. The simple idea in this whole business is for any man, or body of men, to lay out money in such a manner as to stop the article, whatever it may be, before it runs through so many hands, by which the price advances in bulk like a snowball, and thus obtain possession of any necessary at the earliest price. This fact may be elucidated by Tobacco, which, in the West Indies costs only a few pence per pound, but in England, after it has run its gauntlet of prices, produces from the consumer half-a-crown or three shillings per pound.

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We shall now proceed to enumerate the many great national advantages which must ensue if our Plan is carried into effect. Many attempts have been made all over the Kingdom, particularly by the journeymen in shops and manufactories to raise their wages; their plea was and is, the great advance in the price of all the necessaries of life; reasoning from their necessities, they perhaps were not aware of the inconvenience resulting to their Country if such a mode had not been repelled; the raising journeymen's wages to equal their demands, would have compelled the merchants to advance our prices at foreign markets so high as might have been detrimental to our commerce in the extreme. On account of the danger, and the combinations which they entered into, the Legislature passed some strong acts as preventatives.—But as preventatives arrested one danger, they left the other, the necessities of the poor, where they found it: the men complained, that they could not live by their labour, and they combined to raise their wages; they were punished by imprisonment for this, but the evil of want remained.—But, we humbly presume, that if our Plan was adopted, combination, and strong laws to prevent it, would be superseded. If the price of the different articles of subsistence were reduced to a moderate rate, the people would become happy, and love, rather than fear, the dispensations of Government.

In the interim, we most earnestly intreat our readers to respect the laws, and to seek in active industry that rational support which they seldom fail to procure; whatever combination is in itself, is not to be considered; the law has made it a crime, and the laws must be obeyed: besides, every
 thinking

thinking man must be convinced of its ultimately injuring our manufactories, and eventually defeating its own purposes. There are other, and more allowable means to be resorted to to obtain the desired end : let a number of poor men raise a fund ; a number of poor men can thus perform the office of one rich man, and the effect will be the same to many as to one. The law has prevented combination, but the adoption of our Plan, or one of a similar nature, will infallibly prevent the necessity which at first inspired or provoked combination.

Another, and more alarming evil, now raging in a great many of our trading and manufacturing counties, from the high price of bread, would be done away. The riots at Birmingham, Nottingham, and other principal towns, are all founded on the cry of want : of all complaints, surely the most persuasive, affecting, and most urgent in its demand for protection and commiseration.

As matters stand, bread is absolutely unattainable in sufficient quantity for supporting the functions of life in the laborious poor. It ought to be told, that the public may have the whole case before them, that thousands, with wives and numerous families, earn no more by their labour than seventeen shillings per week, some sixteen, some thirteen, and many, even in London, toil from six in the morning until eight or nine o'clock at night, the whole week, for twelve shillings, or less.

As it is not in the nature of wisdom to require impossibilities, as no creature can eat without the requisite means, the plain honest question is—how in these instances can mankind subsist ? Shall we become Egyptian taskmasters, and say, “ ye are idle, you shall make bricks without straw ! ” Shall we
say

say to labour, you must work without bread ? this surely is impossible, it would be absurd and inhuman. A man, with a wife and four or five children, will require much about eight quartern loaves for the week, and this is no great allowance ; eight quartern loaves will now cost eleven shillings and two-pence ; this sum, for one article, for one week, to a man who earns only about twelve in the week, is such a huge proportion of his poor weekly stock, as to leave nothing for the long list of those necessities which are essentially and indisputably requisite to preserve existence. BREAD is emphatically termed THE STAFF OF LIFE ; nor would it be possible to characterise it by a better figure ; bread the poor must have, if possible ; to obtain which they sacrifice every thing, because it is the chief support, or staff, to themselves and their innocent offspring.

As to shoes, stockings, decent apparel, or a great number of things requisite to the reasonable comfort of life, their attainment will soon become impossible, as our streets will too strongly evince in every corner of the metropolis. What were formerly mere reasonable comforts, will then become luxuries, and only seen at a distance : but all these, however necessary, may not be thought of, but the want of bread is so eminent a danger, that a poor sick man, stretched on his truckle, thinks neither of a glass of wine as a restorative, or a medicine, however necessary, if he wants bread for his child ! the greater malady swallows up the lesser, like Aaron's serpent.

But we hope, that by the adopting of some plan, just and efficient, and of magnitude to embrace the full extent of the evil, we shall have no reason to dwell on such gloomy pictures ; if the price of the necessities

of life were reduced, health will be restored to the sick, joy will illumine the face of want, the families of the indigent will smile, comfort and gladness reign in their hearts, plenty abound in the cottage, and this people become truly loyal, when they are made happy !

If something efficient is done, the effects would be so numerous and beneficial, that surely it is a call on the rich and benevolent particularly to come forward at this crisis, and assist by their power, if they have the will, to carry our plan into permanent effect. It would at once defeat the sordid arts of those pests of society, who have lately infested Mark-lane, the Coal-Exchange, &c. By lessening the purchasers in those markets, men possessed of large capitals would not find such enormous profits on those necessary articles as they do at present ; the markets would then keep a regular medium as formerly ; and those vast sums, which are now laid out to the injury of the public, would most probably be employed in extensive manufactories, &c. which, at the same time that it secured them an ample interest for their capital, would extend our commerce, give employment to the ingenious artificer and mechanic, and encrease the wealth and prosperity of the empire.

And we hope, that those Societies in whose hands this publication may chance to be, will weigh the subject rather than the book ; will consider it with candour and deliberation, not as a mere speculation or idle novelty, but as a substantial good, which has been repeatedly proved by experiments, on a small scale ; yet, though small, sufficient to form a leading idea towards setting the mind to work to digest something more enlarged, more promising and capable of applying to the exigency.

To conclude, we have addressed this letter the more particularly to the Benefit Societies, on account of their numbers, respectability, and the rank which they fill in the commonwealth. From their numbers, zeal, power, intelligence, and a sufficient fund for the importation, and other contingent expences, might certainly be expected; from their respectability, permanence, honor, and an example which would probably be followed by other bodies, corporate or not; from their rank, among the level, or middling classes of the community, may be fully expected that strong interest, which can alone insure unanimity. This interest must be further considered; for, in the instance of the Benefit Societies, our plan, would create a mutual zeal, and good-will; their endeavours, wishes, and advantages, would be all alike; if those concerned consisted of any supposed number, their end would still be the same, and it must be admitted, that if in some points a very numerous body were not exactly cordial, yet, that no proposal can be more promising in respect of union.

But although this proposal is addressed to the Benefit Societies, for the reasons above mentioned, it would no less possess the same beneficial consequences to any other description of people; a hundred, or more, housekeepers might unite in the same, or a familiar plan, as they often do to much worse purposes, as in lotteries, in which mischievous speculation, thousands are every year ventured, without any very reasonable prospect of an adequate return for the sums expended; where the odds are evidently against them, and a man wins by miracle.

For this immoral, this unjustifiable pursuit, we find clubs uniting every year, all over the town
and

and the country, the victims of their dreams and idle expectations. If then, they thus unite for so silly a purpose, why not join hand and heart to prosecute a plan, such as we have proposed, to import their own wheat, store, grind, and distribute it cheaply to their numerous families, become their own coal-merchants, &c. a plan, the excellency of which would not depend upon the turning of a lottery wheel, and the jumbling of blanks and prizes, where a few capital prizes are thinly scattered through a mountain of blanks ; but would assuredly lead to a certain, unequivocal benefit, where every man might be sure of a prize, without the chance, or even possibility of being thrown into despair.

Combinations among the journeymen would be done away ; such a Plan would supersede many things which have happened of a disagreeable nature ; one of the greatest and wisest efforts of Power is surely to endeavour to make the subject happy ; they never can be so if they want bread ; all that ever aimed at the true interest and happiness of a Nation, never failed in reaping a plentiful harvest of national gratitude and esteem. Obedience should rather follow love than fear ; and it has ever been, and ever will be found, that the best strength of a Government is built on the love of the Community. Another evil, the present alarming riots, would be no more heard of ; these disgraceful calamities are now raging in sixteen or twenty of our chief trading and manufacturing towns ; the fountain-head, the very pure spring of commerce, is drying up, and threatens national evil of gigantic magnitude. Numbers have been dragged to prisons, of the misguided multitude, some have been killed, more wounded, and these sad visitations have not terminated !

Finally,

Finally, that a great, distressing, and impressive evil exists, in the difficulty the working poor find in getting bread for themselves, and their children, is universally seen, felt, heard, and understood ; it is universally admitted, that some REMEDY must be applied to the growing malady ; something must be done instantly to alleviate the ferment ; a ferment arising from a complaint the most natural and justifiable, the want of bread ; a complaint that demands every tenderness ; a complaint the most impressive and effecting ; pervading every cottage, and ravaging the country and the metropolis.

If the PLAN which we have proposed, or some one as eligible be adopted, we most sincerely hope that it may be done at once ; no time is to be lost ; the enemy, Hunger, is at our doors ; it must be repelled, with energy, sooner than the common enemy ; and that whatever is done, may be done in peace.

THE END.

DAVENPORT, Printer,
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